

HOUSE No. 1366

By Mr. Hynes of Marshfield, petition of Frank M. Hynes relative to authorizing the Department of Environmental Management to establish a regional dredge grants program. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL DREDGE GRANTS PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 52 of chapter 88 of the Acts of 1997 is hereby amended
2 by striking out, in line 48, the word “and”; and by inserting, in
3 line 54, after the words “not to exceed \$25,000”, the following:—
4 and provided further, that the department is hereby authorized to
5 establish a program within the office of waterways for the purpose
6 of administering grants to one or more regional entities for the
7 purchase of dredges and associated capital equipment. Regional
8 entities shall mean any municipality, associations of municipali-
9 ties, or other entity deemed fiscally and administratively qualified
10 pursuant to regulations promulgated by the department. The
11 regional entity or regional entities receiving a grant pursuant to
12 this section shall be responsible for implementing a public harbor
13 dredging program and shall be responsible for the operation and
14 maintenance of the dredge program, the establishment and sched-
15 uling of services, the maintenance of books and records and for
16 obtaining permits. The department shall provide to the committee
17 on natural resources, the house committee on ways and means,
18 and the senate committee on ways and means, no later than Sep-
19 tember 1st of each year in which grants are made, a written report
20 as to the nature and scope of grants made in the preceding twelve
21 months. The commissioner is authorized to make such rules and
22 regulations as are necessary and appropriate to establish and
23 administer grants pursuant to this section. In no event, however,

24 shall the department be obligated to expend more than two million
25 dollars for this purpose, which amount shall be available for
26 expenditure by the department through June thirtieth, two thou-
27 sand and six.